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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 09/940,541 | 08/29/2001 | Takaya Sato | 0171-0778P-SP | 4738 |
| 2292 75 | 590 08/11/2006 | | EXAMINER | |
| BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH | | | CREPEAU, JONATHAN | |
| PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747 | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application/Control Number: 09/940,541

Art Unit: 1745

1. The reply brief filed July 27, 2006 has been entered and considered. The application has

been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Jonathan Crepeau whose telephone number is (571) 272-1299.

The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Patrick Ryan, can be reached at (571) 272-1292. The phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 272-1700. Documents

may be faxed to the central fax server at (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

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Jonathan Crepeau Primary Examiner

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August 8, 2006